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HOW TO RESTORE BURNT OUT PASTURES

Many permanent pastures were partly if not entirely destroyed by the drought during the past year. In many cases these fields are on rolling land or are mixed woodland pastures which would be extremely difficult to plow and fit for other crops or in seeding back to permanent pastures. No doubt you will have many inquiries from your farmer customers as to how to handle such land and renew the pasture.

The Agronomy Department of Purdue University advises as follows:

"Decide on a grass and legume mixture to suit soil conditions. Blue grass or most of the legumes will likely fail where blue grass or such clovers have not grown before, because the soil is too acid. A different mixture of grasses and clovers should be used on acid soils than on sweet soils.

On the natural blue grass soils the following mixture of grasses and clovers is suggested, the amount being for one acre. Timothy 5 pounds, blue grass 4 pounds, alsike clover 3 pounds, lespedeza 3 pounds, and red top 2 pounds.

It will take time to establish blue grass but the timothy, alsike and lespedeza should furnish pastures from the middle of summer on until frost. Eventually the blue grass should crowd out the less persistent grasses and occupy the land about as before drouth destroyed the stand.

On the more acid soils or where blue grass or the clovers do not thrive the following mixture is suggested per acre. Red top 4 pounds, timothy 4 pounds and lespedeza 6 pounds. The lespedeza should furnish pasture in midsummer and the grasses in late Summer and Fall, with favorable growing conditions.

Unless pastures, uninjured by drouth, are available some steps should be taken to provide temporary pastures while waiting for the grasses and clovers to get started. Oats seeded at the usual rate and as soon as the land can be worked should provide early Spring and Summer pasture. By the time it is gone the other suggested seedings should be ready for use."

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Figure 6

Timothy and Red Top steady - increasing demand.

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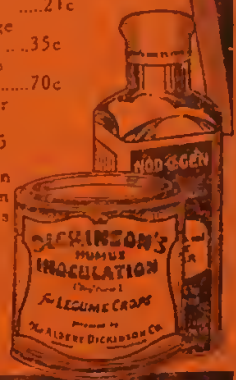
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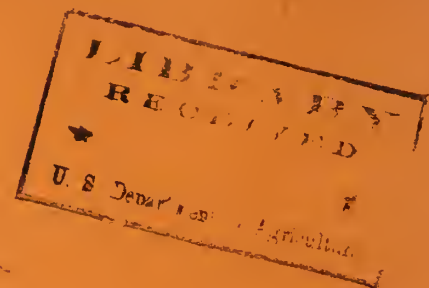
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